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Politics in Policy . . . By Edward T. Follard

Bipartisan Front Shattered

BIPARTISANSHIP in the field of foreign affairs, meaning an informal agreement to have American politics end at the water's edge, appears to have been shattered again as a result of the U-2 affair and the flop of the Paris summit conference.

The last great breach in bipartisan ship occurred 10 years ago, not long after President Harry S. Truman ordered American troops to Korea to thwart a Communist aggression.

The arguments first arose in that summer of 1950, and flared up again in the presidential campaign of 1952, sounded remarkably like those that are reverberating across the land in 1960.

There is a difference, of course, a big one, and it lies in the fact that it was the Republicans who were on the attack in 1950 and 1952.

It was on Aug. 13, 1950, that Republican members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee issued a statement denouncing the Truman Administration for being caught off guard in Korea. The Republican Senators assailed President Truman and his predecessor, the late Franklin D. Roosevelt, for their "blindness" to Russian designs since 1945, and said:

"The American people will not now excuse those responsible for these blunders."

They were not scolding Mr. Truman for intervening in Korea, but for what they said was a blundering Far Eastern policy that resulted in the Reds' attack in Korea. Even Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio, Republican leader of the Senate, said that they have voted to have it been progress, although to call the conflict "the War."

FORMER Sen. Tom Connally (D-Tex.), who was chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee when the Republican outburst occurred in 1950,

tried to preserve bipartisan ship, saying:

"The best way to get international peace is to have unity at home, and not pettifoggish attacks on the Administration."

That is pretty much what the Republicans are saying now as they assail those Democrats who are jumping on the Eisenhower Administration for the U-2 business and the collapse of the Paris conference.

Former Sen. H. Alexander Smith (R-N. J.) had this answer for Connally in 1950:

"We feel that by recognizing and facing up to the mistakes of the past we can chart a more effective course for the future."

If that sounds familiar, it is because it is the same argument that many Democrats are making now in justifying their attacks on the Eisenhower Administration.

In that summer of 1950, the Republicans hoped that their exhortation of President Truman in connection with the Korean War would give them control of Congress in the fall. It didn't. But two years later, when Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was the Republican nominee for President, Korea was an even hotter issue. And this time it was an important factor in the big GOP landslide.

SEN. EISENHOWER agreed that once the Communists invaded South Korea, President Truman had no alternative but to resist with American forces. He did not agree with Gen. Douglas MacArthur that the United States should have started bombing Red China after the Chinese forces joined the North Koreans to hurl Americans back from the Yalu River.

Nevertheless, the soldier-candidate went after Mr. Truman in all-out fashion in what was called his kick-off speech, delivered in Philadelphia on Sept. 4, 1952.

Seven years after victory in World War II, he said, "this Administration has been led in a seriously close to the war."

bring "the kind of peace that can be kept."

"We will win this battle for peace," he said, "only after we have won the battle for Washington."

The late John Foster Dulles, who was to become Secretary of State, criticized Mr. Truman for being too much on the defensive, for merely conducting rear guard actions.

"We are accustomed to having the initiative," Dulles said, "and being the nation which originated the impulses which swept through the world."

Sen. Richard M. Nixon of California, the Republican nominee for Vice President in that 1952 campaign, roamed the country blasting at the Truman foreign policy and saying:

"We should throw out the men who made that policy."

He said that "Ike won't be fooled by Stalin," and added: "We need a big man as President because we have had a little man for the last seven years."

He said that the Truman Administration "cannot be trusted to get us out of war in Korea or keep us out of future wars."

The following year, Vice President Nixon addressed the American Legion and said that Mr. Truman's decision to fight in Korea was "right." He said that the Communists had to be stopped in Korea and Mr. Truman "deserves credit for making that decision."

Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas, Democratic leader of the Senate, is something of a hero to Republicans right now because he is warning his party not to make an issue of the U-2 affair and all that has flowed from it. He says that foreign policy should not be made a target of "petty party politics."

No Republican of comparative stature arose to defend Mr. Truman in that way in 1952. The GOP attack on the Missouri was justified on the ground that "those who take credit for the sunshine cannot complain too bitterly if they are blamed for the rain."

